



Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
www.opi.mt.gov

OPI Special Education Endorsement Project

The intent of the **OPI Special Education Endorsement Project** is primarily to assist districts in filling special education vacancies, specifically in rural and hard to serve areas of Montana. In an effort to serve those districts most in need of an endorsed special education teacher, a school district or agency may have no more than two participants per academic year and the applying district must provide the following:

1. Documentation that the district advertised the vacancy statewide on the Teach Montana website for a minimum of one month. teachmontana.org. This is the initial site to access, which will link up with teachers-teachers.com.
2. Written assurance that no applicants endorsed in special education applied for the position.
3. The candidate hired to fill the vacancy has a Class 1 or Class 2 Montana Teaching Certificate.

The candidate must agree to:

1. Complete their special education endorsement, including student teaching, within three years.
2. Participate in the e-Mentoring for Student Success (eMSS) online mentoring program per project requirements. Candidates are matched with an e-Mentor based on grade level and exceptionality.
3. Teach special education in a Montana school district for a minimum of two years following completion of their special education endorsement.

To apply for participation in the OPI Special Education Endorsement Project, the district must submit the following:

1. A completed application and participant agreement form with all required signatures.
2. Documentation that the job posting was advertised statewide on the teachers-teachers.com website for a minimum of one month.
3. Written assurance that no endorsed special education teacher applied for the position. Districts or agencies who chose not to hire an applicant endorsed in special education will not qualify for the project.
4. A copy of the candidate's Montana Teaching Certificate.
5. Unofficial copies of transcripts from all universities the candidate has attended.
6. A plan of study signed by their academic advisor from the university they plan to attend.

Applicants are not considered part of the OPI Special Education Endorsement Project until they receive official notification from the project office stating their acceptance. If a district or agency cannot verify with documentation the requirements listed above, the district will be unable to participate in the Endorsement Project.

For information go to: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/CSPD/11SpecEdEndorseProjectBroch.pdf>

Project Coordinator: Jolene Burdge
#406-657-2097
jburdge@msubillings.edu

Montana Office of Public Instruction Contact:
Deb Park
Program Improvement Specialist
406-444-0688
debpark@mt.gov